

AROUND THE WORLD

Scenes Surrounding the Holy Places in Jerusalem—
Scenes Surrounding Bethlehem.

BETHLEHEM, PALESTINE, March, '03.
Over that historic manger at Bethlehem a "fortress like a pile of buildings" has been erected, called the Church of the Nativity. The nave of the church is the common property of all Christians and is said to be the oldest monument of Christian architecture in the world. A part was erected by Constantine in 330 A. D. Here Baldwin I was crowned king. Edward IV of England presented the church with a new roof. The church is a splendid building, containing four rows of marble columns. Two staircases lead to the chapel or grotto of the Nativity, which is twenty feet below the floor of the choir. Lamps, embroidery, ornaments and figures of saints are everywhere. On one side of the grotto is a recess containing a silver star in the pavement about which is the following inscription in Latin: "Hic de Virgine Marie Jesus Christus natus est," meaning, Here Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary.

Another recess is called the Chapel of the Manger from which the wooden manger was taken, now shown at the Church of S. Maria Maggiore at Rome.

The Altar of the Maji is shown, said to be the spot where the wise men presented their gifts.
It is generally believed that the Grotto of the Nativity is the actual place of the birth of Christ. So many people coming to the city at one time to be taxed as required by law, would make it impossible for all to secure accommodation at the hotels. A few days after my arrival two parties of Americans numbering about 900 arrived in Jerusalem. Other parties also came and the crush was great so that some were glad to get even a barn or a woodshed in which to sleep. Hence it is perfectly plain to me that Joseph and Mary were assigned humble quarters in that day, when some rich people in these days are forced to accept similar treatment when hotels and boarding houses are numerous.

Here is shown the Chapel of St. Jerome who occupied a chamber hewn out of the rock, spending thirty years in translating the "Biblia Vulgata" of the Latin church.

The traditional Shepherd's Field usually interests, for here the shepherds, watching their flocks by night, received "the good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.' And it came to pass as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, 'Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.' And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger." Luke 2: 10-16.

Bethlehem is situated 2,550 feet above sea level, and has a population of 8,000. Its people surpass those of Jerusalem in appearance, though apparently of similar stock. The young ladies are pleasant, well dressed for orientals.

NAZARETH, PALESTINE, March, '03.

Having become acquainted with Jerusalem, Jericho, Bethany and Bethlehem, I turned toward Nazareth by the route offering the greatest interest, which was by way of Jaffa and Haifa. At Jaffa I boarded a rigged teamer schooner of only 1,600 tons register and coasted northward. The Judean, Samarian and Galilean hills presented a beautiful appearance from the glassy Mediterranean waters. The first point of exceeding interest along the coast is the "desolate site of Caesarea, whose ruins have long been a mere quarry for procuring materials with which other places have been built. It owes its origin to Herod the Great, who spared no pains or expense in its erection, and named it after Augustus Caesar. Previous to this time there was simply a landing place here, and a tower, mentioned by Strabo as Strabo's tower. In the time of Tacitus, Caesarea had become the chief town of the Roman province of Judea. It was the royal dwelling place of the Herodian family, and the official residence of Festus, Felix and other Roman procurators and the headquarters of the Roman troops charged with the security and tranquility of this part of the

empire. Baldwin I took the city from the Saracens in 1102, but it was recaptured by Saladin in 1187. In 1191 it was again won by the Crusaders and given to Frederic II of Germany in 1229. St. Louis rebuilt the walls in 1251. But now there is scarcely anything left of Caesarea's former greatness. Ruin and decay are on every hand; a few Bosnian exiles live among the ruins. The New Testament allusions to Caesarea show its importance nearly twenty centuries ago. After Paul had clambered down the Damascus wall in order to save his life, he was brought to Caesarea where he secured passage to his home town—Tarsus. (Acts 9:30.) Here lived Cornelius, (Acts 10:) the first convert to Christianity after Peter's vision at Jaffa. Peter made rapid steps to Caesarea when the prison doors at Jerusalem had miraculously given him his freedom. (Acts 12:19.)

After Paul had given the Grecians some much needed advice on his first missionary journey to the northward, he returned to Caesarea. (Acts 18:22.)

It was here that Philip the Evangelist lived. Here Paul was warned that the Jews at Jerusalem were taking counsel against him, whereupon he uttered the memorable words, "I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 21:13.)

Once this same Paul, when at Jerusalem, demanded papers to Damascus giving him authority to arrest anyone whom he might meet that was Christian. Now, after having his eyes opened, after the great transformation, he is ready to die for the cause he once persecuted.

To Caesarea Paul was brought, no less than 200 soldiers, 70 horsemen and 200 spearmen being detailed to bring him. Acts 23:23.) Why require so many men? Let the infidel answer. Here it was that Felix, the governor, trembled as Paul "reasoned of righteousness, temperance and judgment to come." He who views the scene today and recalls its former greatness will decide that Caesarea has been judged and found wanting.

An aqueduct, or part of one, remains which once conducted water from the Crocodile river for the invincible Roman legions. Fragments of the old Roman walls still stand as monuments to blasted hopes.

The vase called the Holy Grail, that played an important part in mediaeval history and poetry was found here in 1101, when captured by Baldwin I. This vase, now in Paris, is composed of green crystal and is hexagonal in shape. The old city covered 376 acres. E. C. HORN.

(Continued next week.)

Quotation Marks.

Speaking of the use of quotation marks, the London Chronicle says: "But why all these inverted commas, 'the silly trick of peppering pages with these uncouth bacilli?' You will find none of these bacilli in the Bible. Take this passage, chosen at random: Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye inquire among yourselves of that I said. A little while, and ye shall not see me; and again, a little while, and ye shall see me? The modern compositor would set that passage between two brackets of inverted commas, for it is a quote within a quote. But it is beautifully clear as it stands, and among all Biblical misunderstandings no one, we think, has been misled by the absence of an inverted comma."

A Story of Browning.

Browning himself couldn't always explain his meaning at first reading. Dr. Furnivall, founder of the English Browning society, frequently consulted the poet as to the meaning of some passage in his works. "Bless me," Browning would say, "I really have forgotten what I did mean, and as I haven't got a copy of my works by me I really can't enlighten you. Just lend me the book, there's a good fellow. I'll look it over at my leisure and try to find out what was in my mind at the time."

Realization.

"We never realize the full value of a thing until we lose it," remarked the moralist.
"That's right," remarked the practical man, "especially if the thing lost was insured."—Philadelphia Press.

Timely.

Muggins—Youngpop is going to have his baby christened Bill.
Buggins—How strange.
Muggins—Oh, I don't know. He came on the first of the month.—Philadelphia Record.

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Notice.
Joseph F. McManis will take notice that on the 11th day of August, 1903, Isaac Rockley, a Justice of the peace of Dorsey precinct, Box Butte county, Nebraska, issued an order of attachment for the sum of \$75.00 in an action pending before him wherein John F. Neeland is plaintiff and Joseph F. McManis is defendant, that property of defendant, consisting of money, has been attached under said order. Said case was continued to the 15th day of October, 1903, at 1 o'clock p.m.
JOHN F. NEELAND, Plaintiff.
Hemington, Nebraska, September 15, 1903.
7 p. 38



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